

REMARKS

Claims 36, 37, 39-44 and 52-58 are currently pending in the application and stand rejected.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C §102

Claims 36, 37, 39, 40, 42, 43, 44, 53 and 55-57 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,536,993 to Taylor. In particular, the Examiner finds that, with regard to claim 36, Taylor discloses all of the claimed limitations. Applicants have reviewed the reference with care, paying particular attention to the passages cited, and are compelled to respectfully disagree with the Examiner. However, in the interest of passing this case to issue, Applicants have further clarified the scope of claim 36 by amending it to recite that the barrier layer is substantially non-porous. Support for this limitation may be found, *inter alia*, at page 16, line 11 of the specification. As the Examiner will appreciate, this limitations is not disclosed by Taylor, and Applicants therefore respectfully submit that amended claim 36 is now patentable over Taylor.

Claims 37, 39-44 and 52 depend from claim 36. In view of the above discussion, it is submitted that amended claim 36 is allowable, and for this reason claims 37, 39-44 and 52 are also allowable and are not individually addressed elsewhere herein.

Claims 59 and 60 are newly presented herein, and depend from claim 36. Support for these claims may be found in the specification as filed at, *inter alia*, p. 17 ll. 22-25, and p. 28 ll. 11-16, respectively.

Claim 53 is a device claim that corresponds to method claim 36, and that has been amended similar to claim 36. Applicants therefore respectfully submit that amended claim 53 is also patentable over Taylor.

Claims 54 and 56-58 depend from claim 53, and for this reason are also allowable and are not individually addressed elsewhere herein.

Claims 61 and 62 are newly presented herein, depend from claim 53, and correspond to new claims 59 and 60 addressed previously.

In view of the above, Applicants submit that the application is now in condition for allowance and respectfully urge the Examiner to pass this case to issue.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required or credit overpayment to deposit account no. 12-0415. In particular, if this response is not timely filed, the Commissioner is authorized to treat this response as including a petition to extend the time period pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) requesting an extension of time of the number of months necessary to make this response timely filed and the petition fee due in connection therewith may be charged to deposit account no. 12-0415.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Post Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on

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(Date of Transmission)

Mia Kim

(Name of Person Transmitting)

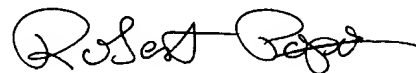


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Respectfully submitted,



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